(b) and (c) The United States has publicly stated that it has discussed this issue in bilateral meetings with Pakistan. The international community, including the United States, must examine what additional steps are required to ensure an end to Pakistan's well-known links with terrorism and clandestine proliferation activities.

Kamrej-Vapi NH in Gujarat

†*228. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction of the National Highway from Kamrej to Vapi in Gujarat;

(b) whether the progress of construction work of the highway is very slow;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) by when the construction work of the above highway is likely to be completed; and

(e) the estimated expenditure to be incurred on this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The section from Kamrej to Vapi on National Highway-8 in Gujarat is of 116 kms in length and is part of Golden Quadrilateral of National Highway Development Project, under implementation by National Highways Authority of India. Around 16 km length of this section has already been 4-laned and the work in the remaining length is in progress.

(b) and (c) The progress of the work is behind schedule, due to differences and disputes between Joint Venture partners and cash flow problems.

(d) and (e) The work has been awarded in two contract packages. One package from Atul to Gujarat/Maharashtra Border is likely to be substantially completed by December, 2003, and the other package from Chalthan to Atul is likely to be completed by June, 2004. The estimated expenditure on this work is around Rs. 720 crores.

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi